This first “Philosophy in the Schools Day” designed for anyone studying philosophy in high school, or simply interested in life’s big questions, will focus on the way philosophers have sought to address Aristotle’s injunction to pursue an “examined life” by the way of both ethics and logic. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear one ethical perspective on the “examined life” and one logical. A plenary session at the end of the morning will bring both perspectives together for a lively discussion.

The Program:

- **8:30 am—9:00 am** Sign-in for schools and breakfast buffet, Ballrooms (lobby level)
- **9:00 am—9:15 am** Opening remarks and logistical information, Ballrooms (lobby level)

  *Victoria Larson, Director, Institute for the Humanities*

  What is Philosophy? Why Live the Examined Life?

  *Dorothy Rogers, Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion, MSU*

Choose one ethics presentation in one session and one logic presentation to attend in the other. Mark your choices on the enclosed registration form. Large school groups may be asked to split up.

**9:30 am—10:20 am**

**SESSION A**

(LOGIC) **Why Cheating Shouldn’t Work (and why it does, when it does)**

Since you’re all students – and are probably aiming to stay students for some time – one place where ethics and knowledge intersect for you is learning. Should you do honest work, or should you cheat? In this talk, I’m going to discuss a specific kind of cheating you are all probably fairly sick of hearing about: plagiarism. But I’m going to argue that it’s much less about ethics, and much more about knowledge, than you’ve been led to believe. Specifically, I’m going to show you that any schoolwork where cheating works is schoolwork that isn’t very good at encouraging and assessing real learning (and vice versa) – so you ought to demand better from such assignments (and the assignment-makers, and yourselves.)

*Speaker: Kirk McDermid, Department of Philosophy & Religion, MSU*

(ETHICS) **Who Cares? The Ethics of Responsibility**

In this session we will discuss the ethics of “egoism” or self-interest, versus “altruism” or other-regarding behavior. We’ll consider recent theories of care and concern vs. independence and self-reliance as they have trickled into popular culture today.

*Speaker: Dorothy Rogers, Chair, Department of Philosophy & Religion, MSU*
10:30 am–11:20 am

**SESSION B**

**(LOGIC)**

**(A Meaningful) Life Takes Logic**

In this session we will discuss three mistakes that lead one to think life is without meaning. First mistake: thinking that a meaningful life requires one to leave the world a better place than one found it. Second mistake: thinking that a meaningful life requires one to make a permanent difference. Third mistake: thinking that one life is not enough.

*Speaker: David Benfield, Department of Philosophy & Religion, MSU*

**(ETHICS)**

**Drugs and Personality**

Would you take a drug that removed your sense of guilt? What about a drug that gave you more confidence during a school dance? A few decades ago, it would have been unthinkable to give children drugs that will make them calm down in school, yet such treatments are commonplace now. The more that science is able to understand how our personalities function, the more that it becomes tempting to manipulate them, or even to “customize” our behavior. But that potential raises a number of philosophical questions about how much control one person should have over his or her own body. Many of those questions also relate to deeper questions about what type of society we should want, and what we should want the people who make it up to look and act like.

*Speaker: Chris Herrera, Department of Philosophy & Religion, MSU*

11:30 am–12:20 pm

**Panel Discussion**

**Registration and Contact Information:** *(Registration deadline, Wednesday, February 1, 2012)*

Pre-registration is required for all of our programs. **After we receive your request we will send you an e-mail confirmation, along with directions to the campus and parking**

The registration fee for this program is **$18.00** per student or teacher. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Pre-register your school group by returning the enclosed form by **Wednesday, February 1, 2012**. Mail your check or PO and registration form to **Montclair State University, Institute for the Humanities, Room 105 Dickson Hall, Montclair, NJ 07043**. Make checks payable to: **Institute for the Humanities/MSU**. Registrations may be faxed to our office (973-655-7207) and your check mailed under separate cover. Our office should receive all registration materials by the deadline date.

The Institute for the Humanities is an approved provider of the State mandated professional development hours. Teachers who would like to receive (3) three hours of credit for this program - add **$25.00** to the registration fee (see form, below).

**For program updates and information about upcoming programs, visit the Institute for the Humanities web site: [http://chss2.montclair.edu/instituteforthehumaities](http://chss2.montclair.edu/instituteforthehumaities)**

*Voice:* 973-655-7516  
*Fax:* 973-655-7207  
*Email:* inst_hum@mail.montclair.edu  
*Address:* Montclair State University, Institute for the Humanities, 105 Dickson Hall, Montclair, NJ 07043

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REGISTRATION FORM

Philosophy in the Schools Day
The “Examined Life:” Ethics and Knowledge in Action

Friday, February 10, 2012

Complete this form and return (with check or purchase order) to the Institute for the Humanities, Montclair State University before the registration deadline: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Teacher: ____________________________  Department: ____________________________

School Name: ____________________________

School Mailing Address: ____________________________ (zip)

Daytime phone (personal, or school with extension): (            ) ext.

E-mail: ____________________________  Confirmation letters and program information will be sent via e-mail. Please write clearly.

# Students: ________  # Teachers: ________  Parking:  Bus [ ]  Van [ ]  #Car(s) [ ]

[ ] Yes, I would like 3 hours of Professional Development Credit. Add $25.00 per teacher to reg. fee.

Total Amt. Enclosed: $ ________  PO Number: ________

($18.00 per student or teacher)

Mark your choices, below, by writing in the number of students and teachers for each talk. CHOOSE ONE ETHICS PRESENTATION IN ONE SESSION AND ONE LOGICS PRESENTATION IN THE OTHER. (Note that since space is limited in some of the lecture rooms, groups of 10 or more may have to split up. We will try our best to give everyone their first choice selections.

- **Session A**  9:30 AM—10:20 AM
  - (LOGIC) [ ]  Why Cheating Shouldn’t Work (and why it does, when it does)  *Kirk Mc Dermid*
  - (ETHICS) [ ]  Who Cares? The Ethics of Responsibility  *Dorothy Rogers*

- **Session B**  10:30 AM—11:20 AM
  - (LOGIC) [ ]  (A Meaningful) Life Takes Logic  *David Benfield*
  - (ETHICS) [ ]  Drugs and Personality  *Chris Herrera*

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- Mail to: Montclair State University, Institute for the Humanities, 105 Dickson Hall, Montclair, NJ 07043.
- Registrations may be faxed to our office, or sent as an e-mail attachment – check or PO mailed under separate cover. Our fax number is 973.655.7207.
- Contact the Institute for the Humanities: Voice: 973.655.7516